

LIBRARY

THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



for the Year

1946.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District  
of Thedwastre in the County of West Suffolk for the year  
ending 31st December, 1946.

Public Health Offices,  
8, Whiting Street,  
Bury St. Edmunds.

August 1947.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Thedwastre.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable  
consideration my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health,  
being that for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the help  
and consideration given to me by my colleagues and all  
members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health

Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,  
D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental Deficiency  
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed  
1st July, 1938.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but  
holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C. ).

Mildenhall R.D.C. } Appointed 1st July, 1936  
Thingoe R.D.C. }  
Cosford R.D.C. Appointed February 1937

(b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector,

Oswald J. Wyatt, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,  
Meat Cert.R.S.I., appointed June 2nd, 1930,  
also Building Surveyor and Housing Manager.

One additional Sanitary Inspector,

Trevor David, M.S.I.A., Meat Cert.R.S.I.,  
appointed September, 1st., 1945,  
resigned June 30th, 1946.



## SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

	34,126 acres	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	8,150	8,180	
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book.	2,548	2,552	
Rateable Value.	£26,777	£27,066	
Sun represented by a Penny Rate	£111	£112	

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	125	53	72
Illegitimate	23	14	9
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
Legitimate	5	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
<u>Deaths.</u>	97	45	52
<u>Birth Rate per 1000</u> population.	Thedwastre 18.1	England & Wales 19.1	
<u>Stillbirth Rate per</u> <u>1000 population.</u>	" 0.73	" " "	0.53
<u>Stillbirth Rate per</u> <u>1000 total (live &amp; still- births).</u>	" 39.0		
<u>Death Rate per 1000</u> resident population.	" 11.9	" " "	11.5
<u>Death Rate of Infants</u> <u>under 1 year.</u>			
All infants per 1000 live births.	" 20.3	" " "	43
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	" 16.0		
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	" 43.5		

3 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (1 male and 1 female legitimate, and 1 female illegitimate). No death from Maternal Causes (Headings 29 and 30), 17 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough and one death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On page 4 is a table giving some statistics for 1946 and for the decade from 1936 to 1945, From this table have been prepared the decade average figures which allow comparison with this period and the year 1946.



On page 5 is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures, except that one less male (Pneumonia) was recorded locally.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

Deaths in the first year of life were:-

One death (a premature child) occurring on the first day of life  
One death (Gastro-enteritis) " at two months.  
One death (Pneumonia) " " five months.

The remaining deaths of children were one girl aged 2 years (Gastro-enteritis), and one girl aged 3 years (Tubercular Meningitis).

Only two other deaths occurred before age 40 years, being a male aged 37 years (Heart Disease), and a female aged 35 years (Aleukaemic Leukaemia).

Of the total 96 deaths, recorded locally, there were 76 (79%) at age 65 years or over, the numbers of these in each quinquenniad being:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Age 65 to 69 years	4	7
" 70 to 74 "	7	6
" 75 to 79 "	10	11
" 80 to 84 "	11	10
" 85 to 89 "	2	6
" 90 to 94 "	-	2
	34	42

Of the 96 total deaths 68 took place at the home of the deceased, and the remaining 28 in hospitals as follows:-

West Suffolk	(General) Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.	7
Addenbrookes	(General) " Cambridge.	1
St. Mary's	(P.A.C.) " Bury St. Edmunds.	18
Risbridge Home	(Mental Defective) Hospital, Kedington.	1
White Lodge	(E.M.S.) Hospital, Newmarket.	1

Figures are recorded on page 14 which indicate that Thedwastre has had, as have its neighbouring Authorities, an increased incidence of Cerebral Haemorrhage since the outbreak of war.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30183054>





Below is a table giving the causes and number of deaths in 1946 occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar-General's figures, except that one less male (Pneumonia) was recorded locally.

HEADING	CAUSES OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								TOTAL Registrar- General's figures.
		Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
	M = Male F = Female									
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	- - -	1 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
9.	Influenza.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 2	1 2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 1	7 4	8 5	
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 5 3	5 4	
19.	Heart Disease.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 1 3	-	11 24	15 25	
20.	Other Diseases of circulatory system.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
21.	Bronchitis.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
22.	Pneumonia.	1 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2 - -	- - -	4 - -	
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age.)	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -
27.	Other digestive diseases.	- - -	1 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2 - -	- - -	3 - -
28.	Nephritis.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	3 3 3	3 3 3
31.	Premature Births.	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -
33.	Suicide.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
34.	Road traffic accidents.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	- - -	1 - -	
35.	Other violent causes.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -
36.	All other causes.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 - -	4 2	4 3	
TOTAL:	Males.	1 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2 -	7 -	34 -	45 -	
	Females.	- 2 -	2 -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	4 -	42 -	52 -



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge continued to provide these facilities throughout 1946.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Red Cross Society Ambulances for general cases, Stowmarket U.D.C. Ambulance for infectious cases, and the County Council Ambulance for Scabies Cases, were available in 1946 and dealt promptly with all calls made upon them.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. This work was carried on by nurses of the Local Nursing Associations residing in the villages of Hinderclay, Great Ashfield and Woolpit, whilst some parishes on the periphery are served by nurses residing at Stanton and Bradfield St. George.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. } These continued as in  
(e) HOSPITALS. } previous years.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. There were no public piped supplies in the Rural District, with the exception of approximately a quarter of a mile of mains at Gedding, by which the Council draws water from the private supply of Captain Walmseley, for ten Council Houses and four private houses. During 1946, however, Mr. A. T. Howlett kindly agreed to the tapping of his storage tank, supplied by a deep bore, whereby water was piped some 50 yards to a tap in Mill Lane, Woolpit, which is used by the inhabitants of 18 Council houses and some further 18 private houses.

Both these supplies gave satisfactory results on analysis.

A contract was made with a firm of Water Engineers in October to provide approximately 1,200 feet of piping to be laid from the Woolpit Gravel Company's bore to the Norton Road, Woolpit, for the supply of 21 houses. (The piping arrived in July 1947 and works should be completed by the end of September.)

Other Sources of Water.

Apart from the two piped supplies mentioned, and those for new houses and large residences where the wells or bores are completely covered and pumped, no other supplies can be relied upon to give satisfactory results, as nearly all remaining supplies are shallow wells, unlined, and having wooden covers.

Results of 18 water analyses taken during 1946 are set out below.

		Satis-factory.	Sus-picious.	Unsatisfactory.
3 Bores.	Public Supply. Private House.	2 1	- -	- -
15 Wells.	Public Supply. Council Houses. Private Houses. New Private Houses.	-- 1 3 -	1 -- - -	- - 8 2 10



Although 1946 was a year of heavy rainfall water carting to Woolpit did not decrease. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the results, water has had to be carted even though some wells have shewn an increase in their water levels.

#### Proposed Comprehensive Scheme.

During the year the remaining 2 projected test bores at Rushbrooke and Ixworth were completed and the comparative details of the 3 (Risby included) are set out below.

Site.	Diam.	Depth in feet.	Rest level below ground.	Reduced level below ground.	Time of recovery.	Lining depth.	Gallons per hour.
1.Risby.	21"	300	18.75'	77'0.	15 mins.	50	38,100
2.Ixworth.	21"	300	4.5'	22'0.	30 mins.	60	43,820
3.Rushbrooke.	21"	325	5.5'	42'0.	22 hrs.	325 slotted	41,850

The analysis results as reported by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal and Scriven, Chemical and Bacteriological Laboratory, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1., show the water to be chemically and bacteriologically sound - these analyses <sup>are recorded</sup> on page eight.

(i) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The Council's Water and Sewerage Consultant has carried out a Sewage Disposal Survey under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewage Act, 1944. Although, so far, as a result of this Survey, six schemes are suggested which would allow the water-carriage system to be introduced into eight villages, it has become apparent that these schemes must await the time when more economical tenders can be obtained which will allow the work to be carried out at the amount per house limit fixed by the Ministry of Health. In the meantime the Council have as a temporary measure installed pail closets into the new Council Houses built during the year, together with bath and sink water drainage to septic tanks.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. On occasion in 1946 the state of streams and ditches was unsatisfactory at Walsham-le-Willows, Hessett, Woolpit, Elmswell and Norton. The Council employed a man continuously during the year cleaning out ditches and streams.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The working class houses in the District are almost entirely supplied with pail closets - very few privy vaults remain. All new private houses built during the year had water closets.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The new Council elected in April 1946 had referred to it the need for a Refuse Removal Scheme. There was also evidence that the inhabitants of the District were more than ever conscious of the need for such a scheme. The acquiring of a suitable vehicle was not an immediate possibility being subject to a long delivery time due to the present vehicle shortage. As a temporary palliative the Council have removed a number of the accumulations and more unsightly dumps throughout the District.



FINAL ANALYSES.

	<u>Risby.</u>	<u>Rushbrooke.</u>	<u>Ixworth.</u>
<u>CHEMICAL ANALYSIS,</u> (in parts per 100,000)			
Suspended solids.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dissolved Solids.	37.64	37.64	49.40
Chloride (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	1.95	1.95	4.1
Free Ammonia	0.0075	0.0075	0.018
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015
Nitrate (as N <sub>2</sub> )	0.26	0.26	0.32
Nitrite	Very faint trace	Very faint trace	Very faint trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F)	0.0144 (N/80)	0.0144 (N/80)	0.0384 (N/80)
pH value	7.1	7.1	7.1
Temporary Hardness	24.46	24.46	19.13
Permanent Hardness	2.47	2.47	7.0
<u>Physical Examination.</u> Clear, Colourless, Odourless.			
<u>Bacteriological Examination.</u>			
Bacteria per ml growing aerobically on nutrient agar at 20°C in 72 hours.	6	6	30
Bacteria per ml growing aerobically on a rapidly liquefying nutrient gelatine at 20°C in 72 hours.	1	1	2
Bacteria per ml growing aerobically on nutrient agar at 37.5°C in 48 hours.	less than 1	less than 1	1
Coliform Organisms.	absent in 50 ml.	absent in 50 ml.	absent in 50 ml.

INFERENCE.

These hardwaters are in a satisfactory chemical, physical and bacteriological condition and are suitable for drinking purposes.



(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Mr. Wyatt has supplied the following tabular statement:-

	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>
Dwelling Houses, Routine Inspections.	546
Bacon Factory.	287
Butchers Premises.	47
Food Shops and Bakehouses.	89
Factories.	43
Shops.	39
Cowsheds.	27
Dairies.	27
Water Samples.	18
School Inspections.	19
Interviews.	53
Complaints.	16
Building Surveyor.	114
Tents, vans and sheds.	6
Petroleum Act	56
Visits, Building Licenses.	714
Miscellaneous.	<u>116</u>
	2,217

Classified list of Housing Defects and Nuisances abated during the year.

Roofs repaired.	11
Chimneys repaired.	6
Eavessgutters repaired.	4
Ceiling repaired.	1
Walls repaired.	4
Dampness.	4
Windows repaired.	3
Fireplaces repaired.	2
Floors repaired.	1
Closets repaired or renewed.	3
New drains tested and passed.	12
Others.	<u>7</u>
	58

In addition to the above, repairs were carried out to the Council Houses and those requisitioned under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

Factory Act. 43 inspections to factories were made arising out of which two notices for the provision of closet accommodation were issued and completed.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 39 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, were made. From these inspections, which pay regard to cleanliness and to the provision of suitable and sufficient heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation, no action was required in any case.

(v) CAMPING SITES. No application for licenses to occupy sites were made in 1946. There are three sites in use in the area, the number of persons concerned being approximately 20. Six visits were made to these sites.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action necessary.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. Nil.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Nil.



(ix) RATS AND MICE. A Meeting of the Workable Area Committee for Rodent Control was attended on the 27th May, 1946. The Council was represented by its then Vice-Chairman, Mr. Charles Dakin.

The Special Scheme for free treatment of private dwellings was discussed fully but subsequently this scheme was not adopted by the Council. The financial arrangements in the District are that householders pay a charge of 2/6d. per hour for the services of the Post Officer. 103 accounts were rendered during the year, 101 for houses and 2 for business premises. The actual number of rats bodies recovered was 635 - the estimated kill was therefore 1,600.

## Refuse Tips.

In addition to the Block System of house to house rat disinfection throughout the District, routine inspection and treatment of Refuse Tips was carried out.

4. SCHOOLS. 19 visits were made to schools in order to inspect the washing and sanitary accommodation. In no case was action required.

SECTION D.

## H O U S I N G.

1.	(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts).	387
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	546
	(2) Dwellinghouses recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.	Nil
	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	309
2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice.</u>	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	289
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
	(a) <u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
	(2) Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	Nil
	(b) <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
	(1) Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
	(2) Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.	Nil



(c) Proceedings under Section 11, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, or under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Demolition Orders made.	Nil
Undertakings accepted not to re-let.	2
"                not to re-let cancelled.	2

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	17
(ii) No. of families dwelling therein.	22
(iii) No. of persons dwelling therein.	126
{(b) New cases of overcrowding reported in 1946.	Nil
(c) (i) Cases of overcrowding relieved.	Nil
(ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases.	Nil
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil
(e) The Council possess 353 Council Houses.	

## "Hobhouse Survey".

As reported in my previous Annual Report, the Council completed the "Hobhouse Survey" of the District in 1945 and thereby placed the percentage of houses in each category as follows:-

	<u>Category.</u>				
	<u>One.</u>	<u>Two.</u>	<u>Three.</u>	<u>Four.</u>	<u>Five.</u>
All houses in the District.	3%	48%	22%	11%	16%
Privately owned working class houses, i.e. excluding private residences, farms, public houses and Council houses, etc.	2%	35%	25%	15%	23%
All houses other than privately owned working class houses.	7%	77%	14%	2%	Nil %

After analysing this survey, the Housing Requirements of the District were assessed as follows:-

" The Immediate Housing Requirements of the District 476 dwellings (of which it is recommended that 77 should be bungalows suitable for old persons or childless couples), the Ten Year Programme suggested is 600 dwellings (of which it was recommended that 99 should be bungalows).

The number of new houses required immediately is equivalent to 19% of all the inhabited houses in the District or to 24% of the privately owned working class houses in the District, whilst the number of new houses required for the Ten Year Programme is equivalent to 27% of all the houses in the District or to 35% of the privately owned working class houses in the District.



The progress made in the provision of homes during 1946 was:-

Council Houses.

In course of construction at 31st December, 1946.

Heath Road, Woolpit.	2
Rickinghall Inferior.	4
Drinkstone.	8
Felsham.	8
Elmswell.	10
	<u>—</u>
	<u>32</u>

Completed at 31st December, 1946.

Mill Lane, Woolpit.	8
Badwell Ash.	4
School Road, Elmswell.	4
Heath Road, Woolpit.	2
	<u>18</u>

Private Enterprise Houses.

Under construction at 31st December, 1946,  
totalled 14

Completed at 31st December, 1946,  
totalled 5

Hutments.

Three family units were completed by the Council and  
in occupation at Woolpit at 31st December, 1946.

One seaside bungalow was transferred and occupied  
by Private Enterprise.

Five families had "squatted" in ex-army huts which  
were later converted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of Registered Cowkeepers and  
Retail Purveyors of Milk is 104. 27 visits were paid to  
cowsheds and 27 to dairies.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The St. Edmundsbury Co-operative  
Bacon Factory at Elmswell is the only licensed slaughter house  
regularly in use within the District. During the year 287  
visits were paid and the 64,162 pigs slaughtered all inspected.

	<u>Number Condemned.</u>	<u>Approximate Weight.</u>
Carcases	144	23,778 lbs.
Heads	3,395	44,139 "
Plucks	1,148	8,038 "
Intestines	1,627	-
Kidneys	3,999	999 lbs.
		<u>76,954</u>

Tuberculosis	109
Peritonitis	2
Moribund	19
Fevered	4
Jaundiced	2
Septicaemia	6
Malignant Oedema	2
	<u>144</u>



- (c) ADULTERATION, ETC.)  
 (d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.) } No change.

(e) NUTRITION. Although due allowance must be made for the fact that different assessors have different standards there is some justification from figures to state that the nutrition of school children in West Suffolk had sufficiently deteriorated because of war conditions, so that in 1941 it was comparable with the state of nutrition that existed in an undoubtedly depressed area at a very depressed time.

The figures given below are taken from Qnd. 4886, 1935, (a Report by three Ministry Observers on the Public Health State in Depressed Areas) and for comparison from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk.

The Observers in Sunderland and County Durham added this:-

"It must be remembered that these findings refer to pupils from schools selected as being in very poor areas and to children of whom it is fair to say that 50 per cent of their parents had been unemployed for long periods."

The West Suffolk figures were based on examination of 2,512 local children (that is excluding evacuees).

	Date of Inspections.	% Subnormal Nutrition.	% Malnutrition.	Total % Sub.& Mal.
Sunderland.	Dec. 1934.	18.7	2.2	20.9
County Durham.	and Jan. 1935.	20.6	1.3	21.9
West Suffolk.	1941.	19.2	0.7	19.9

That there was cause to suppose that additional food was required by the children of West Suffolk is demonstrated by the improvement recorded when additional food in the form of Milk in Schools and School Meals was provided for them. School children in 1941 were not suffering more than other sections of the community. Thus it may be argued that all sections of the West Suffolk community in 1941 were subject to subnormal nutrition. Since then rations for main sections of the people have decreased and other commodities have become rationed and in short supply.

Factors other than food alone enter into the production of subnormal nutrition. The three Observers stated that this was confirmed by their experience and exemplified such factors as maternal efficiency, housing conditions, existing or recent illness and hours of sleep in children, together with another factor, of interest at that time, continued unemployment.

The Housing Inspection Sub-Committee of Thedwastre are well able to assess the maternal efficiency of the inhabitants of their District and to know that the efficiency and management of the housewives in the District of their homes and domestic duties are beyond praise.

This Committee is also well able to assess the housing conditions especially in their relationship to the storage, preparation and cooking of food. In many cases it is beyond understanding how women manage to produce meals at all under such conditions, and similarly, an assessment could be made by this Committee of the probability of children receiving sufficient hours of satisfactory undisturbed sleep. Description of the effect of all these things when more than one family is housed in a working-class cottage is left to others.

Children and young adults in the Depressed Areas, (it was suggested) were more prone to infection and catarrhs and they recovered from these much more slowly. Whereas in 1944 there were 48 Low Attendance Certificates issued for the schools in West Suffolk, in 1945 there were 147.



It was also suggested that in the Depressed Areas "Anaemia of malnutrition is rapidly increasing in incidence. This especially applies to young adults." The three Observers in a clinical survey said that they had taken "account of the general physique, appearance and development, colour of skin and mucous membrane, nutrition, muscle tone, mental apathy or alertness." A scrutiny of the influx of persons into Bury St. Edmunds on a winter's market day shows that there are very few spritely, robust, blooming, full-blooded, interested and alert passers-by in comparison with the number of dejected, flaccid, pale, and disinterested beings.

"Children in depressed areas are mercilessly exposed to damp, draughts, noise and emotional stress." The Housing Inspection Sub-Committee will know that many of our children are not more fortunate in their homes and that all people have passed through the prolonged period of the war with its emotional stress.

The three Observers gave special attention to the incidents of Bronchitis and Pneumonia as conditions likely to be related to sub-normal nutrition, as also they gave considerable consideration to the incidents of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The following figures have been culled from the Annual Reports on the Health of West Suffolk and related to 100,000 population.

	<u>Years 1936 to 1939.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
Deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia	90.2	104.7
New Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis	76.2	92.3

It is irksome to a large number of people who are thoroughly convinced that they are making a real contribution to relieving world food shortages to be told that rationing is really a measure which is promoting their mental and physical health and well being - rationing has certainly gone beyond any such point. There is, of course, a minority who disagree - one local practitioner believes people are improved by such restrictions "especially old people - there are not so many dying from Strokes (Cerebral Haemorrhage) from excessive Port drinking as formerly". This belief, however, does not fit the figures recorded locally. The number of deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage recorded for each of my five Districts are as follows:-

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Newmarket U.D.C.	11	4	11	7	10	16	17	8	18	14	16
Cosford R.D.C.	8	10	5	4	14	16	16	16	14	9	25
Mildenhall R.D.C.	10	6	6	11	18	15	17	14	15	16	20
Thedwastre R.D.C.	NR	NR	3	7	22	15	12	19	12	11	9
Thingoe R.D.C.	9	16	9	11	25	19	24	14	14	22	23
TOTAL:				34	40	89	81	86	71	73	72
											93

N.R. The figures for these years were not recorded locally.

The factors which doubled the incidence of Cerebral Haemorrhage throughout the War Years lost none of their powers during 1946.

- (f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan)      )      No change.  
 (g) WATER CRESS.                  )



SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. It will be noted that the total number is 62 - the corresponding figure for 1945 was 153. Two patients were removed to. Isolation Hospital - one Scarlet Fever and one Diphtheria.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1946.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Infective Hepatitis.
TOTAL	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
	1 -	2 -	6 6	15 15	6 3	2 -	- 1	2 3
Age 0 to under 1	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	2 -	- -	- -
1 " " 3	- -	- -	3 2	2 4	- -	- -	- -	- -
3 " " 5	- -	1 -	1 2	4 3	- -	- -	- -	- -
5 " " 10	? -	1 -	2 -	7 3	1 -	- -	- -	- -
10 " " 15	- -	- -	- 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
15 " " 25	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 -	- -	- 1	- 2
25 " " 45	1 -	- -	- -	- 3	1 1	- -	- -	1 1
45 " " 65	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1	- -	- -	- -
65 & over	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	- -

100 children (83 age 0-4 years and 17 age 5-14) completed Diphtheria Immunisation during 1946. 56 children previously immunised were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection. At the end of the year it was estimated that 46% of the children under 5 years of age and 93% of children between 5 and 15 years had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation Course.

The Percentage immunised under 5 years of age is better indicated by taking only those children 1 year old and not yet 5 years, as Immunisation is rarely completed before the child reaches 1 year old - the percentage then of age 1 year and under 5 years immunised was 60%.

This figure (60%) approximates more closely to the desire of the Ministry of Health (expressed 23rd July, 1947, Circular 128/47) "that an intensive effort will be made to achieve the immunisation of at least 75% of all infants reaching the age of one year." That the figure is not higher is not solely the indifference of parents, but is related to the absence of Infant Welfare Clinics in our Rural District and to incomplete visiting of schools due to shortage of medical staff.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

New Cases.

Deaths.

	New Cases.		Deaths.			
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.		
	M.	F. M.	F.	M.	F. M.	F.
0-4	-	- -	1	-	- -	1
5-14	-	- 1	-	-	- -	1
15-24	1	3 -	-	-	- -	-
25-34	1	- 1	-	-	- -	-
35-44	2	- -	-	1	- -	-
45-55	2	- -	-	-	- -	-
55-64	-	- -	-	-	- -	-
65 & over	-	- -	-	-	- -	-
	4	3 2	1	1	- -	1

28 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, Respiratory Male 7, Female 12, and Non-Respiratory Male 6, Female 3.

